# High-Level Gentamicin-Resistant Enterococci and Quinupristin/Dalfopristiin-Resistant *E. faecium* form Grond Pork Purchased from Grocery Stores.

*Drake A, McClellan J, Joyce K, Barrett T, Angulo F, and NARMS Enterococci Working Group*

Gentamicin and virginiamycin (an analog of quinupristin/dalfopristin) are commonly administered to pigs for treatment of infections and growth promotion, respectively. Such uses select for resistant enterococci in the intestinal tracts of pigs that can be transferred to humans through the food supply. Gentamicin and quinupristin/dalfopristin are commonly used for treatment of enterococcal infections in humans.

From July 1999 to June 2000, 120 packages of ground pork (10 packages/month) were purchased from grocery stores in Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, and Oregon. After screening for enterococci, one isolate per sample was sent to CDC for speciation and partial range MIC determination against gentamicin and quinupristin/dalfopristin using broth microdilution (Sensititre).

Enterococci were isolated from 588 (99%) of 596 ground pork packages. Fifty-four (12%) of the enterococci isolates have been speciated; 42 (78%) were E. faecalis, 8 (15%) were *E. faecium*, and 2 (4%) were *E. gallinarum*. Four hundred thirty-six of the enterococci isolates (74%) have been susceptibility tested; 18 (4%) isolates had high-level (MIC $\geq$ 500) gentamicin resistance. High-level gentamicin-resistant enterococci were isolated from pork from all states. Seven (87%) of 8 *E. faecium* isolates were resistant to quinupristin/dalfopristin.

High-level gentamicin-resistant enterococci and quinupristin/dalfopristin-resistant *E. faecium* were isolated from ground pork purchased from grocery stores. Swine represent a potential reservoir of clinically important resistant determinants to which humans may be regularly exposed.

**Suggested citation**:

Drake A, McClellan J, Joyce K, Barrett T, Angulo F, and NARMS Enterococci Working Group. High-Level Gentamicin-Resistant Enterococci and Quinupristin/Dalfopristiin-Resistant *E.faecium* form Grond Pork Purchased from Grocery Stores. National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Systems. Annual Scientific Meeting. November 19-22, 2002. Hilton Head, SC.